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Seventy-first session
Item 67 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraphs 12 and 13 of its resolution 70/140, the General Assembly reiterated its requests to the Secretary-General, pursuant to its resolution 68/151, to revitalize and reactivate the operational activities of the group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and reiterated its invitation to the Human Rights Council, pursuant to paragraph 16 of Assembly resolution 68/151, to ensure the visibility, effective participation and optimal utilization of the vast knowledge and experience of the group within its subsidiary structures, charged with the mandate of and responsibility for the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and in that regard requested the Council to submit a progress report to the Assembly at its seventy-first session.

2. In this context, the Secretariat hereby draws the attention of the General Assembly to its note to the Human Rights Council on the latest developments with regard to the group (A/HRC/29/54).

3. The fourth meeting of the group was held on 28 April 2015 in Geneva, with the participation of Hanna Suchocka and Edna Maria Santos Roland, with Prince El Hassan bin Talal having resigned from the group and Salim Ahmed Salim having alluded, at the third meeting of the group, to his withdrawal from the group to allow for the appointment of another person able to devote the time required for the work. During the meeting, the experts discussed the possibility of and need for a number of arrangements in the future regarding the definition of the group's mandate, the

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appointment of new members and additional resources. The experts conveyed their views and concerns to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 11 August 2015.

4. The General Assembly is requested to take note of the current situation in the group and to take appropriate action.